

Goethel earns annual award

Marine conservation efforts are lauded

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February 13, 2009 6:00 AM

HAMPTON — The town's Conservation Commission chairwoman has been named "Conservationist of the Year" by the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire.

Ellen Goethel will receive the honor during the organization's annual banquet and auction on March 28.

The Coastal Conservation Association is comprised of recreational fishermen committed to marine conservation. Each year the group awards the title of "Conservationist of the Year" to a person who continuously supports marine conservation and protection efforts.

Prior winners of the prestigious award include Sen. Judd Gregg and former Executive Councilor Ruth Griffin.

Goethel has been a member of town's Conservation Commission since the early 1980s, and was responsible for writing Hampton's wetland ordinance. Since 2006, she has served on Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee.

Goethel has previously worked in the education department of the New England Aquarium and as a marine biologist for Normandeau Associates. Since 1978, she has actively worked with New Hampshire's congressional delegation to help solve fisheries related problems.

She is a member of the New Hampshire Marine Coalition and has worked with the Northeast Seafood Coalition since its inception.

For the past 20 years, Goethel has owned and operated a marine education business, "Explore the Ocean World," which has been bringing hands-on marine science programs to schools throughout New England.